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REDDITCH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report

of the

**MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH**

and

**SENIOR SANITARY
INSPECTOR**

FOR THE YEAR

1952.

REDDITCH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

FOR THE YEAR 1952.

CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL: Councillor A. P. WELLS.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: Councillor H. R. Bird.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Councillor H. R. Bird	Councillor W. J. Hunt
„ H. G. Bayliss	„ A. J. Jobson
„ C. H. Blackford	„ H. J. Paramore
„ W. F. Cardy	„ N. V. Pead
„ A. L. Davis	„ A. Poole
„ R. J. Dickens	„ H. D. Spencer
„ L. Gregory	„ W. J. Stranz
„ R. D. Griffith	„ A. T. Taylor
„ C. V. Howe	„ J. H. Taylor
„ J. W. Hughes	„ J. E. Wilkinson

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS of the LOCAL AUTHORITY.

- (a) E. T. SHENNAN, M.B., ^{24.3} B.Chir., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health (Part Time)
and Assistant County Medical Officer.

Dr. V. PUGH, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
Deputy Medical Officer of Health (Part Time)
and Assistant County Medical Officer.

- (b) G. H. CHAMPION, Cert. "S.I.B.",
Senior Sanitary Inspector,
Meat and Food Inspector,
Inspector under the Shops Acts.

G. H. SMITH, Cert. "S.I.B.",
Additional Sanitary Inspector,
Meat and Food Inspector.

S. R. BAYLIS, Cert. "S.I.B.",
Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

Miss. F. M. Bayliss — SENIOR CLERK.

Miss S. D. Stanley — CLERK.

To the Chairman and Members of the REDDITCH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Owen and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on the state of public health in your district for the year ending 31st December, 1952.

There was again an outbreak of diphtheria during the year resulting in the death of one un-immunised child. There were 16 cases involved compared with 25 in the 1951 outbreak. The cases on the whole were much more mild in nature and only four carriers were traced compared with 17 in 1951. Immunisation continued at a high level and it does appear that the propaganda of the past two years has born fruit in that parents appear to be looking upon immunisation against diphtheria as a routine 'must' in the first year of their child's life and again before school entrance.

I will not dwell on any other of the interesting aspects of public health as I wish to make an especial plea to the townspeople of Redditch for their help and co-operation in a matter which causes me greater concern every year and which promises to become, unless there is a change in the social conscience, the greatest public health problem of the future. It is a countrywide problem not only confined to Redditch.

This is the care of the AGED and AGEING. My remarks here are addressed to all young adults and those who do not yet consider themselves old. Do we ever think of what is to happen to ourselves when our children have had enough of us?—when we can no longer make a useful contribution to the community?—when, in short, we are no longer assets, but debits in the communal records?

When we are old there will be many more of us than there will be young people to bear the burden of our support. Are we prepared to be hustled into a home, or to be accorded the grudging luxury of a hospital bed in which to die, to save trouble for our relatives and neighbours? Are we prepared to lose our identities as citizens, as parents, as householders to become a 'number' in the necessarily inhuman bureaucracy of an *overburdened* and *understaffed* state service—for make no mistake about it, it is difficult even today to find people willing to care for old folk no matter how good the salary and the inducements. There can be no complete answer to this problem by providing paid care by state servants.

The old admonition to honour thy father and thy mother is still a personal one and must always remain so. Time was when children and neighbours would exert themselves to provide the little help needed to enable loved old persons to end their days in reasonable comfort in their own homes—can it be that the urge to bundle them inside the doors of any home or hospital, anywhere, is the reaction of a troubled conscience which prefers not to be pricked by a sense of duty? It is easy to persuade ourselves that these old people will be better fed, washed and clothed, but is that all they require?

I think not. They have lost their home, their friends and relatives are far away and the real solace of old age, companionship with their own kin, reminiscences and memories shared, are denied them. The young people lose, too. The experience and wisdom of age, the lessons of acceptance and valuation of life's worth can often be unconsciously absorbed by young people from companionship with the old.

Is it not time that we all, men and women alike, shook ourselves and examined our own consciences to discover if there is not some elderly relative or neighbour whom we could help? Could we not spare a single night or evening a month to be free to chat with some lonely old soul, doing a little cleaning or sitting quietly with the sick or dying? We would not be paid—is good neighbourliness to be chargeable to the rates? If only a sufficient number of people were to arrange to do these small services for old people living in their own streets—a sort of “warden service” for the old people—the problem would be half solved.

Many may not agree with my sentiments, but I find it increasingly difficult to deal with the case of an old person, living alone, who is not ill but needs a little help and companionship or the old person who is dying and who needs little attention other than somebody to sit by the bed to administer little comforts, but who wishes to die quietly in the home in which he was born. These old people should not be carted off to hospital to die a few hours or days after admission in mental distress at the strange, though hygienic, surroundings.

Whenever I have asked for help in such a case, some kind people have volunteered, but it is the same few willing helpers, and we need many more. Do not forget that we ourselves will undoubtedly, one day, be in similar case and we must do, now, as we would be done by, then.

Could Redditch not be in the forefront in finding a communal solution to this pressing problem?

I have the honour to be, Mrs. Owen and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

E. T. SHENNAN,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

AREA — 12,059 Acres.

Registrar-General's Estimate of resident population,

mid 1952	—	30,360
„ 1951	—	29,400
„ 1950	—	29,110
„ 1942	—	26,390
Census 1951	—	29,184.

Number of inhabited houses, end of 1952 — 9,261

„ „ 1951 — 9,073

„ „ 1950 — 8,765

„ „ 1942 — 7,415

Rateable Value — £163,260.

Sum represented by the Penny Rate — £643.

VITAL STATISTICS.

(1951 figures given in brackets)

POPULATION.

The estimated population at 30,360 shows a further increase of 960 over last year's figure (29,400). 253 (225) of this increase was due to an excess of births over deaths, the rest being accounted for by immigration.

The number of immigrants was over six times that of the previous year, 707 (65).

LIVE BIRTHS.

LIVE BIRTHS			
	M	F	Total
Legitimate ...	275	262	537
Illegitimate ...	11	15	26
Total ...	286 (302)	277 (257)	563 (559)

Birth Rate (Births per 1,000 population):—

1952	1951	1950	1942	1952 (Eng. & Wales).
18.54	19.01	18.00	19.38	15.30

Illegitimacy Rate (Total live illegitimate births per 1,000 total live births):—

<u>1952</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1942</u>
46.18	46.51	45.80	43.91

The number of births was very slightly increased 563 (559). However, the birth rate was lowered by the increase in the total population through immigration.

The illegitimacy rate was static.

STILL BIRTHS.

STILL BIRTHS			
	M	F	Total
Legitimate ...	2	6	8
Illegitimate ...	--	--	--
Total ...	2 (7)	6 (5)	8 (12)

Still-Birth Rate (Still-births per 1,000 live and still births):

<u>1952</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1942</u>	<u>1952 (Eng. & Wales)</u>
14.01	21.01	15.00	34.68	22.6

The number of still-births declined by one-third, 8 (12).

The Rate of Still-births per 1,000 of the population of 0.26 was below that for England and Wales of 0.35.

DEATHS.

DEATHS		
M	F	Total
163 (168)	147 (166)	310 (334)

Death Rate (Deaths per 1,000 population):—

<u>1952</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1942</u>	<u>1952 (Eng. & Wales)</u>
10.21	11.36	10.13	10.75	11.30

The principal causes of death were as follows:—

1. Diseases of the Heart and Circulatory System (including Inter-cranial vascular lesions) 45.80% of all deaths.
(48.8%)
2. Cancer (all forms) and other malignant disease 18.4% „ „ „
(14.1%)
3. Respiratory Disease (excluding T.B.) 11.3% „ „ „
(10.5%)
4. Road and Other Accidents 3.9% „ „ „
(2.1%)
5. Tuberculosis 1.3% „ „ „
(2.1%)

The percentage of deaths falling into the main groups showed, as usual, a slight variation.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were no maternal deaths.

INFANT AND NEONATAL MORTALITY.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR			
	M	F	Total
Legitimate ...	8	6	14
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—
Total ...	8 (13)	6 (6)	14 (19)

DEATHS OF INFANTS WITHIN THE FIRST FOUR WEEKS			
	M	F	Total
Legitimate ...	2	4	6
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—
Total ...	2 (7)	4 (5)	6 (12)

Death Rates of Infant and Neonatal Deaths.

	1952	1951	1950	1942	Eng. & Wales. 1952
Death rate of legitimately born infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 legitimate births	26.07	31.95	17.90	—	—
Death rate of all illegitimately born infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 illegitimate births	0.00	74.07	87.00	—	—
Death Rate of all infants under 4 weeks of age per 1,000 live births	10.65	21.46	9.54	—	—
Death rate of all infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births	24.86	33.99	20.99	35.93	27.6

Causes of Infant Deaths.

	1952	1951
Broncho-pneumonia	4 (2 neonatal)	7 (2 neonatal)
Prematurity	5 (5 „)	4 (4 „)
Heart Failure	1	3 (3 „)
Asphyxia	1	—
Acute Bronchitis	1	—
Hydrocephalus and Spina Bifida 2 (2 „)	—	—
Meningitis	—	1 (1 „)
Birth Injury	—	2 (1 „)
Accident	—	1
Spine Infection	—	1 (1 „)

It is pleasing to note the decline in the neonatal and infant mortality figures. These figures very nearly approached the record figures of 1950.

DEATHS BY AGE		
Age in years	1952 %	1951 %
0 - 1 ...	4.52	5.68
1 - 14 ...	3.23	2.69
15 - 24 ...	0.65	0.89
25 - 64 ...	25.16	22.75
65 and over	66.45	67.96

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE REDDITCH URBAN DISTRICT, 1952.

CAUSE OF DEATH	M	F	Total	Mortality Rate per 1,000 Pop. 1952	Mortality Rate per 1,000 Pop. 1951
1. Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	2	2	4	0.131	0.204
2. Other forms of Tu- berculosis ...	0	0	0	0	0.034
3. Syphilitic Diseases ...	1	0	1	0.033	0
4. Diphtheria ...	0	1	1	0.033	0.102
5. Whooping Cough ...	0	0	0	0	0.068
6. Meningococcal Infec- tions ...	1	0	1	0.033	0
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0	0
8. Measles ...	0	0	0	0	0
9. Other infectious and Parasitic Diseases	0	0	0	0	0
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ...	7	5	12	0.395	0.238
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus ...	5	1	6	0.198	0.238
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ...	0	9	9	0.296	0.102
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ...	0	2	2	0.066	0.102
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	17	11	28	0.922	0.918
15. Leukaemia, Aleukae- mia ...	1	0	1	0.033	0
16. Diabetes ...	1	1	2	0.066	0.034
17. Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	21	22	43	1.416	1.735
18. Coronary Disease, Angina ...	26	8	34	1.113	0.646
19 Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	3	1	4	0.131	0.306
20. Other Heart Disease	18	33	51	1.679	2.415
21. Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	4	6	10	0.329	0.442
22. Influenza ...	1	1	2	0.066	0.340
23. Pneumonia ...	7	6	13	0.428	0.402
24. Bronchitis ...	15	5	20	0.658	0.748
25. Other Respiratory Diseases ...	2	0	2	0.066	0.034
26. Ulcer of the Stomach and Duodenum ...	3	2	5	0.165	0.136
27. Gastritis, Enteritis, and Diarrhoea ...	1	0	1	0.033	0.102
28. Nephritis and Neph- rosis ...	0	3	3	0.099	0.102
29. Hyperplasia of Pros- trate ...	2	0	2	0.066	0
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion ...	0	0	0	0	0
31. Congenital Malform- ations ...	3	0	3	0.099	0.136
32. Other defined and ill- defined diseases ...	18	18	36	1.054	1.39
33. Motor Vehicle Acci- dents ...	1	1	2	0.066	0.17
34. All Other Accidents	2	8	10	0.329	0.068
35. Suicide ...	1	1	2	0.066	0.136
36. Homicide and Opera- tions of War ...	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL ...	163 (168)	147 (166)	310 (334)	10.21	11.36

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services.

(a) CLINICS AND TREATMENT SERVICES.

Clinic	Situation	Time of Holding
Redditch Infant Welfare Centre	Old Vicarage, Bromsgrove Road	Monday and Tuesday 2 p.m.
Astwood Bank Infant Welfare Centre (including Diphtheria Immunisation)	Church Hall, Astwood Bank	2nd and 4th Mondays 2 p.m.
Feckenham Infant Welfare Centre (including Diphtheria Immunisation)	Village Hall, Feckenham	1st Wednesdays 2 p.m.
School Clinic	Old Vicarage	Thursdays 11.30 a.m.
Ante-natal Clinic	Old Vicarage	Tuesdays 10 a.m.
Orthopaedic Clinic	Old Vicarage	Mondays 10 a.m.
Ophthalmic Clinic	Old Vicarage	By appointment
Tuberculosis Clinic	The Dispensary, Elm Road	Fridays 2 p.m.
Diphtheria Immunisation	Old Vicarage Bromsgrove Road	2nd and 4th Thursdays 9.30 a.m.
Vaccination	Old Vicarage Bromsgrove Road	4th Thursdays 10.30 a.m.

The County Council continued to provide, on their own behalf or administer as Agents for the Regional Hospital Board, the above health services in the district.

(b) MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING.

Three agencies provided the Midwifery Services in the district, (1) the family doctor—ante and post-natal care and home confinements, (2) the County Council—ante-natal clinics and district midwives, (3) the Regional Hospital Board—hospitals for delivery and treatment.

The County Council provided nurse-midwives who attended general nursing and midwifery cases in the home.

The Redditch Midwives and Nurses attended:—

252 cases as midwives making 4,758 visits.

32 cases as maternity nurses making 634 visits.

533 general nursing cases making 9,074 visits.

(c) HEALTH VISITING.

The County Council continued to provide a Health Visiting Service.

The Health Visitors serving the district were:—

Nurse L. K. Flood, High Street, Feckenham.

Nurse M. Hill, Old Vicarage, Bromsgrove Road, Redditch.

(d) SCHOOL HEALTH.

The County Council continued to provide an extensive school health service. School Medical Officers carried out inspection of children and regular Minor Ailment Clinics were held at the Old Vicarage. Specialist, Ophthalmic and Orthopaedic Clinics were also held.

(e) DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION AND SMALLPOX VACCINATION.

The County Council continued to provide this service. It was administered locally by the District Medical Officer of Health. Figures are available under Section F.

(f) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Public Health Laboratory Services, Royal Infirmary, Worcester.

The County Laboratory, County Buildings, Worcester.

These two laboratories rendered valuable service towards the detection and prevention of spread of disease in the district. Bacteriological examinations were carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service and the County Laboratory carried out chemical analyses of water, ice cream, etc.

(g) HOSPITALS.

The following Hospitals were available to the residents of the district:—

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Infectious Diseases ... | Hayley Green Isolation Hospital, Halesowen, and Little Bromwich Fever Hospital. |
| 2. Maternity | All Saints' Hospital, Bromsgrove, The Redditch Maternity Hospital, Mary Stephens Maternity Hospital, Stourbridge; and Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital, Stourport. |
| 3. General Medical and Surgical Cases ... | Smallwood Hospital, Redditch, All Saints' Hospital, Bromsgrove, and various Birmingham Hospitals. |
| 4. Children's Diseases | The Children's Hospital, Birmingham. |
| 5. Venereal Disease ... | The General Hospital, Birmingham Royal Infirmary, Worcester. |
| 6. Aged Chronic Sick ... | All Saints' Hospital, Bromsgrove. |
| 7. Mental Illness ... | Barnsley Hall Mental Hospital, Bromsgrove. |

All these hospital services with the exception of the Redditch Maternity Hospital, a voluntary body, were provided by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board.

(h) AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The County Council provided an extensive ambulance service throughout the County. A section operating in Redditch served the district.

(i) HEALTH EDUCATION.

The Council subscribes to the Central Council for Health Education, whose services were utilised during the year for the provision of leaflets and posters. Posters were displayed, in anticipation of the various epidemic diseases, at many points in the town. Posters were also circulated to factories, places of entertainment, and other places where people congregate, in connection with the general promotion of health and the prevention of infectious diseases. The Department has the use of one E.M.B. notice board in Evesham Street, and the windows of the Health Department are fitted with back-boards for the display of posters. Increasing use will be made of the service of the Central Council as more Health Education is undertaken.

(j) DAY NURSERY.

At the beginning of the year the County Council opened a new Day Nursery to take the place of that at Church Green. The new nursery situated in the grounds of the Old Vicarage, Bromsgrove Road, has places for 50 children.

(k) HOME AND DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

The service continued to function well during the year. It was conducted through the agency of the W.V.S. for the County Council by Mrs. L. M. Brown who is to be complimented on a very valuable and efficient service

The number of Home Helps employed was three full time, three part time and two occasional workers. The service was available for families during confinement or illness of the mother, in cases of chronic sickness and for old people. A charge was made which could be scaled down in cases of need. Home Helps were sent to 102 cases.

(l) CARE OF THE AGED.

The W.V.S. continued to provide a "meals-on-wheels" service for old people in their homes. This service is as yet limited by the funds and equipment available. It now operates one day a week when 28 — 30 meals are delivered.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

A detailed report of the sanitary work carried out during 1952 is given by the Senior Sanitary Inspector. The district was kept thoroughly inspected throughout the year and in view of all the difficulties and restrictions that have to be overcome, good progress was made in the various branches of sanitation.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Mains supplies are provided by the East Worcestershire Waterworks Co. The scheme to extend the mains to Noahs Green, Berrow Hill and Bradley Green was completed during the year. This scheme abolished 33 wells. Over 99% of the premises in the area are now connection to the mains supply.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The main sewage disposal works are situated at Studley Road, Redditch. The works are modern, having been constructed during the past war, but are requiring to be enlarged. There are four other disposal plants that serve Astwood Bank, Hunt End, Webheath and Feckenham. A reconstruction of the Feckenham plant was still under consideration. The need for this has become apparent due to the additional houses that have been connected to the sewer as a result of the pail closet conversions.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

There was little change in the number of applications for council houses or the reasons for application.

Below are the housing figures for 1952:—

Number of Houses built by Council during year ...	131
Number of Houses built by private enterprise ...	20
Number of Houses under construction by Council ...	122
Number of Houses under construction by private enterprise ...	37
Total number of post-war Council Houses built ...	1,352

Population in relation to the number of inhabited dwellings:—

Year	Population (Estimated)	Increase or decrease in Pop.	Natural Increase (births less deaths).	Increase by Immigration	Units of accommodation (u. of a.)	Increase of u. of a.	Number of Persons per u. of a.
1938	22,560	—	—	—	7,116	—	3.17
1942	23,960	—	—	—	7,416	—	3.23
1943	26,390	2,430	207	2,223	7,437	21	3.55
1944	25,940	-450	335	-785	7,437	0	3.49
1945	25,470	-470	190	-660	7,486	49	3.40
1946	26,040	570	272	298	7,792	306	3.34
1947	26,680	640	197	443	8,054	262	3.31
1948	27,900	1,220	199	1,021	8,265	211	3.38
1949	28,440	540	206	334	8,536	271	3.33
1950	29,110	670	229	441	8,831	295	3.30
1951	29,400	290	225	65	9,073	242	3.24
1952	30,360	960	253	707	9,261	188	3.28
1945 to 1952		4,890	1,581	3,309		1,775	

The above table shows the effect of immigration on the housing state of the town. Since 1945, there has been an increase of 1,775 units of housing accommodation, against a natural increase in population of 1,581 (including births to immigrants)—less than one person to each unit of accommodation. Against this, 3,309 individuals have increased the population by immigration. In spite of this the provision of accommodation kept pace with both the natural increase and increase by immigration shown by the steady fall in the number of persons per units of accommodation.

Does this mean that a progressive housing authority attracts immigration to the detriment of the 'natives'? The above figures are suggestive though by no means proof. Many other factors influence immigration.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

FOOD PREMISES.

Sanitary inspections of food premises continued during the year. Efforts were redoubled to bring managers and staff to the full realisation of their duties in providing clean and safe food for their customers. The standard of premises was not in all instances of a sufficiently high standard but with persuasion many proprietors were prevailed upon to improve their facilities.

However, hygienic premises alone will not provide safe food if the food-handlers themselves are not well versed in the necessity for absolute cleanliness in handling of foodstuffs and the dangers always present from bacterial contamination.

Food Poisoning.

Five cases of food poisoning were investigated. All occurred in the same family. The source of infection was not discovered.

MEAT.

The improved transport of meat to retailers continued satisfactorily. There were no complaints.

ICE-CREAM.

The standard of ice-cream sold throughout the district was excellent.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING 1952.

Disease	Corrected Notifications	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Smallpox	0	0	0
Diphtheria	19	19	1
Scarlet Fever	18	2	0
Measles	566	2	0
Whooping Cough	137	0	0
Typhoid Fever	0	0	0
Paratyphoid	0	0	0
Dysentery	0	0	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	0	0	0
Encephalitis	0	0	0
Erysipelas	0	0	0
Acute Pneumonia	8		1(12)
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	0	0
Food Poisoning	5	0	0
Totals ...	756	23	2(12)

The figures given in the table are of corrected notifications, i.e. confirmed cases.

Among the common infectious diseases Measles showed its usual bi-annual increase in incidence; whooping cough showed an increased number of notifications, whether due to increased incidence or better notification it is difficult to say as there is little doubt that this disease often tends to escape notification for one reason or another; there were fewer cases of scarlet fever reported. The town was fortunate to be free from poliomyelitis, and the enteric and dysentery group of diseases. However, diphtheria struck again and caused one death—the fourth in two years.

DIPHTHERIA.

The first three cases of diphtheria notified during the year were included in the outbreak described in last year's annual report.

A smaller and apparently un-connected outbreak occurred later in the year involving 16 cases in all age groups. There was one death in a school child. Thirteen cases were in school children. *C. diphtheriae gravis* was isolated in all but the first case.

The following table gives the age-distribution of the cases:—

	Cases			Deaths		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Infants and Toddlers ...	—	3	3	—	—	—
Primary Schoolchildren	4	3	7	—	1	1
Secondary Schoolchildren	1	2	3	—	—	—
Adults	—	3	3	—	—	—
Totals ...	5	11	16	—	1	1

The following table shows the immunisation state of the cases:—

	Cases	Deaths
Un-immunised	7	1
Primary Immunisation Only	5	—
Primary plus Booster ...	4	—
	—	—
	16	1
	—	—

Only four carriers were traced who were members of two large families which produced between them six of the cases.

DESCRIPTION OF OUTBREAK.

The first case occurred towards the end of August in a married woman. This case was never proved bacteriologically but clinically was very severe in nature. Paresis developed after discharge home which cleared up with physiotherapy. This woman lived on the perimeter of the main area affected in 1951. No source could be traced nor could any connection between this and any subsequent case be traced.

Between mid-October and mid-December the remaining 15 cases were reported. One further adult was untraced as to source, 12 cases occurred in girls' and infants' schools in the same precincts and two cases, a teacher and one of her pupils from another primary school. These three schools were outside the main area affected in the 1951 outbreak. There appeared to be no connection between the last two cases and the others. The 12 cases all had either home, social or school contact mainly close but in some cases vague though probable.

The interesting feature of the outbreak was the main localisation of the cases and carriers in two families which were school and social contacts—they accounted for 6 cases and the 4 carriers (3 cases and 3 carriers in one family; 3 cases and 1 carrier in the other). One family consisted of 8 and the other of 7 children.

One of the children in the larger family was discovered to have diphtheritic skin lesions and may have been responsible for infecting all the members of her family all of whom, including the parents, had histories of severe sore throats. Six of the 10 members of the family produced positive swabs at one time or another. Only the child with the cutaneous lesion and the baby in this family had not been fully immunised—they were un-immunised.

It was encouraging to find a very high immunisation state among all contacts. The younger classes in the infants' school were checked for immunisation and boosted where necessary. However, two of the cases had been only two months at school; one primarily immunised only, one un-immunised—the latter died. One child contracted the disease on the thirteenth day after entry to school—he had primary immunisation only.

Because it appeared that the school entrants were especially vulnerable it was decided by the County Medical Officer to make every attempt to bring forward the 'booster' immunisation to as soon after the fourth birthday as possible in order to be certain of providing protection prior to school entrance.

I would again say how greatly indebted I am to Dr. R. Corlett, Medical Superintendent, Hayley Green Isolation Hospital, along with Matron and Staff for their help and co-operation; to Dr. R. J. Henderson of the Public Health Laboratory Service, Worcester, for his prompt bacteriological assistance; the general practitioners for their prompt notification, and to Dr. J. W. Pickup, County Medical Officer, for his advice and help.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The "Immunisation State" of Redditch children on December 31st, 1952, was as follows:—

Year of Birth Age	1952 0-1	1951 1-	1950 2-	1949 3-	1948 4-	1943-47 5-9	1938-42 10-15	Total
Number Immunised	32	423	483	476	422	2312	1877	6025
Number of Births	563	559	524	535	506			
Population (estimated)	... 2728					4432		7160
% Immunised	... 67.3%					94.5%		84%

The comparable percentage figures on December 31st, 1950 were:—

% Immunised	... 60.2	89.7%	78.1%
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The number of children immunised during the year was as follows:—

	1952	1951	1950
Primary Immunisations:			
Under 5 years old ...	520	671	377
5 - 14 years old ...	227	81	16
Re-inforcing "Booster" injections	1,226	1,424	286

The number of children immunised during the year maintained the high level it had reached during the previous year. Health Visitors and doctors are now finding much less 'sales resistance' to immunisation, which appears to be becoming routine practice for infants and children entering school. Every effort must be made to maintain this high level of protection.

SMALLPOX.

No cases of smallpox occurred in Redditch.

Vaccination.

NUMBER OF PERSONS VACCINATED OR RE-VACCINATED DURING 1952.						
AGE AT DATE OF VACCINATION	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 or over	Total
Number Vaccinated	254 (240)	32	6	4	4	300 (431)
Number Re-vaccinated	—	—	3	6	46	55 (33)

TUBERCULOSIS.

**TUBERCULOSIS INCIDENCE AND MORTALITY
DURING 1952.**

AGE	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2—	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
5—	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0
15—	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
25—	4	3	0	0	1	0	0	0
35—	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
45—	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55—	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
65 and over	3	1	0	0	3	2	0	0
Totals	17	9	3	1	5	4	0	0

The number of cases on the register on 31st December, 1952, was:—

	M.	F.	Total	Total on December 31st, 1951.
Pulmonary	99	61	160	150
Non-Pulmonary	16	13	29	26
Total	115	74	189	176

Tuberculosis continued to be notified to the Urban District Council. It ceased to be a statutory duty for the Council to maintain a tuberculosis register. This duty becoming the sole responsibility of the County Council. However, your Health Department continued to keep a list of the tuberculosis patients resident within the district maintained up-to-date by the new notifications and information received from the County Tuberculosis Officer.

During the year there were 26 (27) new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 4 (3) new cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. There were 9 (7) deaths from Tuberculosis. The number of registered cases showed an increase similar to that of the previous year (18).

The picture in Redditch remained static. However, the overall figure of deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis for England and Wales again showed a considerable fall—2,700 less deaths than the previous year.

The following figures are of interest relating to deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis in England and Wales:—

1946 — 374 per week.	1949 — 336 per week.
1947 — 384 „ „	1950 — 271 „ „
1948 — 367 „ „	1951 — 231 „ „
	1952 — 180 „ „

Report of the Sanitary Inspector for the Year 1952.



*To the Chairman and Members of the
Redditch Urban District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my fourteenth annual report. In accordance with the wishes of the Health Committee I have continued to concentrate on the abolition of pail closets and I am pleased to report that forty such conversions were carried out during the year. Since this work commenced 176 houses have been converted, leaving 74 houses to be dealt with. Orders have been placed with builders for the conversion of several more houses in 1953 and when the next annual report is presented I anticipate this scheme will be nearing completion.

During the year over 300 houses were inspected and 207 found to be unfit for human habitation and not repairable at reasonable cost. At the end of the year I prepared a report, which was submitted early in 1953, giving details of these houses with a view to commencing slum clearance as soon as possible.

A summary of the work of the department is as follows:—

INSPECTIONS.

Accumulations									
Found	—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Animals Kept	—	Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	...	174
		Fowls, Pigeons, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Complaints	—	Total number investigated	...	...	...	...	...	...	471
Cottagers' Pigs	—	No. of notifications of slaughter	...	...	...	...	...	...	206
		No. of pigs inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	146
Drainage	—	No. of drains found choked	...	...	...	...	...	...	85
		No. of drains found defective	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
		No. of drains tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	263
		Visits to works in progress	...	...	...	...	...	...	342
		Visits to premises re cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	...	95

Dwelling Houses	—	Visits to applicants for council houses	451
		No. inspected re repairs	997
		Re-inspections	1,364
		No. inspected re overcrowding	45
		No. found dirty	22
		No. found verminous (Premises)	29
		No. found verminous (Persons)	2
		Visits re pail closet conversions	273
		No. of systematic inspections	284
Rodent Control	—	No. of premises visited	1,029
		No. of premises found infested	287
Infectious Diseases		Visits re Scarlet Fever	21
		Visits re Diphtheria	87
		Visits re Other Diseases	39
Factories	—	With mechanical power	129
		Without mechanical power	7
		Bakehouses	10
		Other Premises	27
Food Premises	—	Butchers shops or stalls	94
		Confectioners	39
		Dairies and Milk shops	46
		Fishmongers and Fried Fish shops	42
		Greengrocers and Grocers	317
		Licensed Premises	21
		Ice Cream Vendors and Manufacturers	143
		Preparation of potted meat etc.	6
		Restaurants, Cafe kitchens and factory canteens	67
		Ice Cream Samples taken	47
Knackers Yard	—	... ..	29
Shops Acts	—	... ..	81
Smoke Abatement	—	No. of observations made	24
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.		... ..	33
Water Supplies	—	Visits to premises re wells	47
		No. of Samples taken	6
Local Authority Premises	—	Tips	9
		Sewage Works	6
		Sanitary Conveniences	13
		Swimming Baths	11
		Samples of water taken from baths	2
Visits made to Premises re Building Licences		... ..	45
		Miscellaneous visits	478
Total number of inspections			8,047

IMPROVEMENTS.

Houses generally repaired	128
Wash-houses repaired	43
Water closets repaired or renewed	63
Pail closets converted to water closets	40
Pail closets repaired	2
Waste water closets abolished	5
Trough closets converted to water closets	—
Houses cleansed	10
Verminous premises disinfested	10
Choked drains cleared	29
Drains reconstructed	52
Drains repaired	13
Wells abolished and mains supplies laid on	33
Cesspools emptied	7
Cesspools abolished	1
Dustbins provided (by owner)	31
Dustbins provided (by Council)	17
Accumulations removed	19

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS AND FLEAS.

Ten houses, including six council houses, were found to be infested with bugs. Treatment depends on the type of infestation. Bugs are dealt with by spraying the room and bedsteads with 5% D.D.T. in Kerosine or Zaldecide. Fleas and lice are dealt with by spraying bed, pillows, sheets, blankets, etc. with Geigy dust and the sprayer is loaned to the occupier to spray the clothing of the family. Re-inspections are made in each case.

MILK SUPPLY.

The register contains 28 distributors and 46 visits were made to dairies and milk shops. Nineteen samples of milk (4 tuberculin tested pasteurised, 3 tuberculin tested, 4 pasteurised, 4 sterilised and 4 un-designated) were taken for examination. One of the samples was also submitted for biological examination (detection of tubercle bacillus). Satisfactory reports were received in respect of all the samples.

Licences granted during the year for the sale of designated milks were as follows:—

Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	8
Pasteurised Milk	...	...	9
Sterilised Milk	...	...	4

WATER SUPPLIES.

Water is supplied throughout the district by the East Worcestershire Waterworks Co. Four samples of mains water were taken for analysis all of which were satisfactory. Six samples of water from wells were taken, four of which were unfit for drinking. The occupiers are advised in each case to boil all drinking water.

The Noahs Green, Berrow Hill and Bradley Green mains extensions was completed and thirty-three wells were abolished and mains supplies laid on.

Mr. F. H. Bullock, Water Engineer, East Worcestershire Waterworks Co., informs me that during the year 1952 the following extensions of water mains were carried out:—

Willow Way, Batchley Estate	...	207	yards of 3-inch main
Berrow Hill, Fekenham	...	1,698	" " 4- " "
		2,559	" " 3- " "
Off Batchley Road, Redditch	...	71	" " 4- " "
Evesham Street to Alkaline Batteries	...	382	" " 12- " "
		508	" " 9- " "
Poplar Road, Redditch	...	420	" " 3- " "
Upper Berrow Farm, Berrow Hill Lane, Feckenham	...	152	" " 3- " "

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Meat supplied in the town is received from the Government controlled slaughterhouse at Alcester, at which all food animals have been slaughtered since 1940. The method of transporting meat to the shops is now satisfactory. An improved type of body for hanging carcasses is now used. Notifications were received of the slaughter of 206 cottagers' pigs and 146 carcasses were inspected.

Byelaws made under the provisions of Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 are now operative. Their object is to secure the observance of sanitary and cleanly practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and sale of food in the open air. Six hundred and eighty-one visits were made to food premises during the year and considerable progress has been made in protecting food exposed for sale from contamination. This applies particularly to confectioners where show cases and glass screens have been fitted in many cases.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle, exclud- ing cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)					206
Number inspected ...					146
All diseases except Tuberculosis: Whole carcasses condemned ...					—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...					8
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affect- ed with disease other than tuberculosis					5.5%
Tuberculosis only Whole carcasses condemned ...					—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...					4
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affect- ed with tuberculosis					2.7%

The following is a list of other foodstuffs surrendered as unfit for human consumption:—

Ham	...	...	...	...	69 lbs. 10 ozs.
Ham	...	...	...	...	32 Tins
Meat	...	...	...	...	56 lbs.
Meat (Tinned)	...	...	...	...	95 Tins
Stewed Steak	...	...	...	...	41 Tins
Rabbits	...	...	...	...	24
Rabbits	...	...	...	...	90 lbs.
Rabbits	...	...	...	...	3 Tins
Fowl	...	...	...	...	5
Fowl	...	...	...	...	56 lbs.
Cooked Chicken	...	...	...	...	5 lbs. 8 ozs.
Chawls	...	...	...	...	30 lbs.
Brawn	...	...	...	...	173 lbs. 4 ozs.
Pork Bones	...	...	...	...	80 lbs.
Pigs Feet	...	...	...	...	35 lbs.
Sausage	...	...	...	...	105 lbs. 8 ozs.
Sausage	...	...	...	...	2 Tins
Luncheon Sausage	...	...	...	...	11 lbs.
Liver Sausage	...	...	...	...	21 lbs.
Black Puddings	...	...	...	...	63 lbs.
Pork Pies	...	...	...	...	150 Small
Pork Pies	...	...	...	...	9 Large
Breakfast Fry	...	...	...	...	1 lb. 12 ozs.
Bacon	...	...	...	...	22 lbs. 8 ozs.
Fish	...	...	...	...	115 Tins
Fruit	...	...	...	...	435 Tins
Fruit	...	...	...	...	22 Jars
Fruit	...	...	...	...	1 Box
Jam	...	...	...	...	25 Tins
Jam	...	...	...	...	5 Jars
Marmalade	...	...	...	...	8 Jars
Mincemeat	...	...	...	...	9 Jars
Evaporated Milk	...	...	...	...	22 Tins
Condensed Milk	...	...	...	...	8 Tins
Self-Raising Flour	...	...	...	...	6 lbs.
Soya Flour	...	...	...	...	2 lbs.
Loaves	...	...	...	...	166
Oatcakes	...	...	...	...	13
Christmas Puddings	...	...	...	...	1
Puree	...	...	...	...	5 Tins
Syrup	...	...	...	...	1 Tin
Sauce	...	...	...	...	12 Bottles
Tomatoes	...	...	...	...	408 Tins
Peas	...	...	...	...	71 Tins
Carrots	...	...	...	...	2 Tins
Mixed Vegetables	...	...	...	...	3 Tins
Beans	...	...	...	...	69 Tins
Soup	...	...	...	...	66 Tins
Broth	...	...	...	...	2 Tins
Spaghetti	...	...	...	...	3 Tins

ICE CREAM.

Seventy-five premises are registered to retail ice cream, and of these nine are registered to manufacture. During the year 143 inspections were made and 47 samples taken for analysis. Of these 46 were satisfactory and one sample was unsatisfactory. Repeat samples were taken from these premises all of which were grade 1. To comply with the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations the majority of local manufacturers are making ice cream by the "complete cold mix method, i.e. ice cream powder subjected to heat treatment and to which mains water only is added. A summary of the results of samples taken is as follows:—

Bacteriological.

Number of samples taken — 29	Grade 1 — 28
	„ 2 — Nil.
	„ 3 — 1
	„ 4 — Nil.

The methylene blue test places the samples in one of four provisional grades. Numbers 1 and 2 are satisfactory and numbers 3 and 4 unsatisfactory, particularly grade 4.

Chemical.

Number of samples taken — 18	
Minimum Fat content	4%
Sample with minimum fat content ...	5.7%
Sample with maximum fat content ...	18.4%
Average of all samples	9.3%

RODENT CONTROL.

Local authority premises, such as refuse tips and sewage works, are regularly inspected and treated when necessary. The analysis of Inspection and Treatment is as follows:—

Inspections:

Number of domestic premises inspected	824
„ „ business „ „	55
„ „ local authority premises inspected	93
„ „ farms inspected	57
Total number of premises inspected	1,029

Infestations Found:

Total number of infestations found	287
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Analysis of Infestations:

Number of infestations found (Rats) (Major)	11
„ „ „ „ „ (Minor)	261
Total number of infestations of rats found	272
Number of infestations found (Mice) (Major)	1
„ „ „ „ „ (Minor)	14
Total number of infestations of mice found	15

Treatment:

Number of first treatments ...	270
„ „ second treatments ...	60
Total number of treatments	330

Analysis of First Treatments:

Number of first treatments (Rats) (Major) ...	9
„ „ „ „ „ (Minor) ...	246
„ „ „ „ „ (Mice) (Major) ...	1
„ „ „ „ „ (Minor) ...	14
Total number of first treatments (Rats and Mice)	270

Sewer Maintenance Treatment:

Number of sewer maintenance treatments ...	2
„ „ manholes baited (first treatment) ...	85
„ „ „ „ (second treatment) ...	61
Total number of manholes baited	146

Analysis of First Treatment:

Bait Base. Damp Sausage Rusk and Arsenious Oxide (10%)

Number of manholes test baited (10% of manholes not included in previous treatment) ...	75
Number of manholes baited (actual treatment) ...	85
„ „ „ showing prebait take ...	14
„ „ „ „ complete prebait take ...	14
„ „ „ „ partial prebait take ...	—

Analysis of Second Treatment:

Bait Base: Bread Mash with 2½% Zinc Phosphide.

Number of manholes baited (actual treatment) ...	61
„ „ „ showing prebait take ...	30
„ „ „ „ complete prebait take ...	27
„ „ „ „ partial prebait take ...	3

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

Number of pail closets converted into water closets ...	40
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Analysis of sanitary accommodation at the end of 1952:—

Water closets ...	9,341
Automatically flushed w.c's. ...	30
Waste water closets ...	12
Pail closets ...	175
Earth closets ...	17

HOUSING.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	682
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	1,353
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	46
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	84
(3)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human inhabitation	207
(4)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	300

REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	165
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ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(a)	Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.		
	(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
	(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
	(a)	By Owners	Nil
	(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil
(b)	Proceeding under Public Health Acts.		
	(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	135
	(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
	(a)	By Owners	93
	(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.		
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.		
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

HOUSING ACT, 1936, PART IV., OVERCROWDING.

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year		71
(2) Number of families dwelling therein		186
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein		578
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year		28
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year		38
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...		136
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding		Nil

FACTORIES.

1.—INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH.

Premises (1)	Number of			
	No. on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be en- forced by Local Authorities ...	59	7	—	—
(2) Factories not in- cluded in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	259	135	—	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers' premises)	8	4	—	—
TOTAL ...	326	146	—	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of offences in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	7	7	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7) ...	—	—	—	—	—
(a) insufficient	2	2	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	14	14	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	23	23	—	—	—

I have the honour to be, Mrs. Owen and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

G. H. CHAMPION,

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR.

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